

Rooted in the past,  
Living faithfully in the present

# St. Paul's United Church of Christ

June 2020

*“By listening to  
the still  
speaking God,  
we seek to  
connect people  
to God and to  
others through  
worship,  
service, and  
fellowship.”*

We are a church  
that values:

*Welcome*

*Fellowship*

*Outreach*

*Tradition*

  
**God  
is still  
speaking,**

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Dear Beloveds,

These couple months since we stopped gathering at church for worship on Sunday mornings, I know they have been long and trying. We've done our best to stay safe and stay at home. I've done my best to be present as best I can through online services while emailing, calling, and writing short notes to members. The online services were novel and hopefully sufficient, and speaking for myself, I've enjoyed creating and officiating them). Yet it is clear, there is no place like our spiritual home, entering its doors, and its sanctuary and worshipping God in community.

I am glad to report that the church council and I feel comfortable restarting in-person worship services on June 7<sup>th</sup>. That said, we are cognizant that we need to be mindful, careful, and clear about returning to in-person services safely based on the science. So here is a run-down of the safety measures we will be putting into place and ask that you all follow:

#### **General Safety Protocol:**

- Refrain from handshaking or embracing congregants you do not live with. (Hand on the heart is a good substitute in this regard)
  - Wear a mask from the time of entry into building. We ask that your own reusable masks from home. In the case congregants do not have a mask, a disposable mask will be available at front door.
  - Use hand-sanitizer and handwash as often as possible
- Maintain physical distance, as best as possible, of at least 6 feet.

#### **Worship Service Safety Measures:**

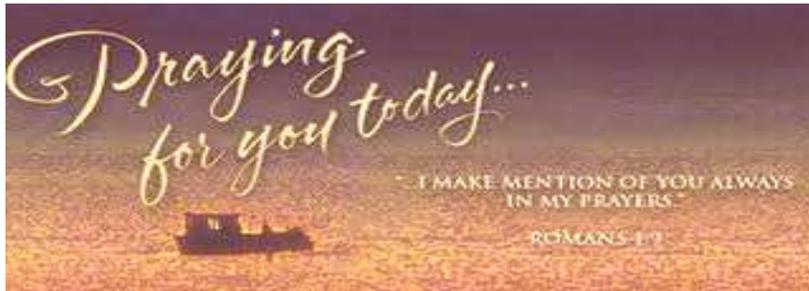
- Bulletins will be placed directly on pews to encourage proper physical distance.
- Pew seating will alternate rows for proper physical distancing.
- Because singing is especially efficient at spreading Coronavirus, wearing a mask during the service is strongly recommended.
- Communion: pews will include individual Communion packets (wafer and juice).
- Offering: in foyer will be placed an offering box where tithes and offerings can be deposited.
- There will be for now no fellowship hour with refreshments and coffee following the service.

I realize that these safety measures represent a rather specific approach to things. But we want to be really safe knowing that the virus is extremely contagious and the median age of our membership places St. Paul's in the higher risk category. Part of following Christ is seeking to protect the most vulnerable. These safety measures are meant to do just that.

I very much look forward to returning to some semblance of normalcy on Sunday. I cannot wait to see you all.

Blessings,  
Rev. Don

DATE	GREETERS	REFRESHMENTS	USHERS	Open/Closure	Liturgist
06/07/2020	None	Cancelled	L & D Adams C. Lowman	Chuck C.	C. Lowman
06/14/2020	None	Cancelled	C & J Batliner R. Lyons	Chuck C.	J. Brewer
06/21/2020	None	Cancelled	T & M Shibley J. Rockwell	Chuck C.	C. Batliner
06/28/2020	None	Cancelled	C. Clark C. Kinyalocots C. Burnett	Chuck C.	



**We continue to pray for our homebound members  
and those with on-going health concerns:**

*Virginia Elam Lorraine Clark  
Cleo Habig Amanda Lorig Velma Griffith  
Carroll Stein Charlene Hale  
Frances Stoutenborough Shirley Fore  
Kathryn O'Conner Kuhn*

*Prayers for our service men and women..*





## June's Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and



*The roof repairs have been completed and during the all congregational meeting we will be sharing the before and after pictures.*

*Thank you*

*D & M Painting for doing such a beautiful job and taking such care with our building!*

*Our Chapel received an upgrade this past winter and here is the final product. Beautifully done!*



**We look forward to seeing you for services on June 7th. We have missed the fellowship. Please remember we will be practicing safe social distancing. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available if you do not have any....We look forward to seeing you again!**

# June 2020

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 In church services Begin 10:15 am	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 In church services 10:15 am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 In church services 10:15 am 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 In church services 10:15 am	29	30				

**Junes Special Offering  
“Strengthen the Church”**

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES.

APRIL 19, 2020

PRESENT: Judy Brewer, Rick Lyons, Julie Ratliff, Darlene Adams, Larry Adams, Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Bryan Canter and Rev. Don Erickson.

OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Don

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from March 8, 2020. Motion to approve. Motion passed. Rick/Bryan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Motion to approve as amended. Added #6 to New Business – Restocking food in pantry. Motion passed. Julie/Darlene

TREASURERS REPORT. Ann is still dealing with AT&T. We now have a credit of \$483.00. Motion made to accept the report and file for audit. Motion passed. Rick/Julie

## PASTOR'S REPORT – REV. DON

Averaged 169 views on Facebook live for the past two Sundays.

Week day readings and meditations for the past two weeks (about 16) have averaged 56 views.

Phone conferences have averaged 1-3 calls.

## NEW BUSINESS

Search committee update - due to the coronavirus guidelines, it is not possible for Carl Robinson to get the information needed for the search committee to do its work. They probably won't be receiving profiles or getting leads for an interim to serve the Church when Rev. Don leaves.

Be thinking ahead to May election of officers.

May Congregational meeting date was set for May 17<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made to go month to month to see when we will again be able to meet as a congregation. Motion passed. Larry/Julie

Committee reports are due to Ann by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Guidelines for cost for chapel usage. This will need to be reviewed.

Update about the other church that wants to use our chapel. We need to know the specifics of what they are expecting to use.

Restocking food In pantry. Our pantry is depleted and there is a need to restock. A notice will be put in the newsletter along with guidelines on what is needed. Also, there will be an opportunity for those who do not wish to go shopping for food to donate money for food purchases.

## OLD BUSINESS

Security discussion.

Audit

Install search committee.

All three items under old business have been tabled until a future meeting.

CO-MODERATORS' REPORTS – Barb & Rick. Extra thanks to Rev. Don for the hard work he has been doing online.

SERVICE – Julie & Judy. No report at this time.

WORSHIP – Barb & Darlene. Thanks to Rev. Don for the work he has been doing. It is really appreciated. Marcia has asked if there is a way she can contribute to the music for the online Sunday service. Rev. Don will contact her.

FELLOWSHIP – Chuck. Lunch Bunch is on hold until further notice.

PROPERTY – Rick & Larry. The painting on the outside of the church is progressing well. Next project will be taking care of the weeds.

BUDGET & FINANCE – Bryan. Markets are down but our finances only went down about 5%. Thanks to the generous giving by Mary Hunt, we have the money for building repairs.

NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be determined by the coronavirus guidelines whether this will be a meeting at the church or if it will be a virtual meeting.

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Darlene

ATTENDANCE: March 2020 – 74 (9/5 week average) COVID 19 Protocol in place no services after 3/15.

March 2019 – 131 (26/5 week average)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

JUDY BREWER, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
114 S. BROAD STREET  
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**  
**10:15 a.m. Worship Service**

**Nursery Provided • Lift to Sanctuary • Handicap Accessible**  
**Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.**

*Rev. Don Erickson, Interim Pastor*  
*Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist*

Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday , 930am-130pm Thursday By appointment  
Church Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 11am-2pm  
Office 513-422-4519

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